

Testimony of Alexchayanne Diaz-Larui Chipotle Worker, New York City Labor and Public Employees Committee Public Hearing 10:00 AM, Thursday, March 9, 2023

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION CTW, CLC

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Good morning, members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Alexchayanne Diaz-Larui. I moved to NYC from Puerto Rico when I was three years old, and I served in the military for 8 years. I am a father, a caretaker for my elderly mother who has disabilities, and – like essential workers everywhere – I have rent to pay, and must put food on the table amid back-breaking inflation.

I have been a Chipotle employee in New York City for 4.5 years. I like the camaraderie of my job and working on a team. I've worked at a lot of fast food places and a lot of grocery stores, but this is different. I like working there, but when I first started working there, they were not following New York's Fair Work Week law. I fought with 32BJ to get the law properly followed, and the changes have brought peace of mind to workers across New York. Workers need stability – we need to be able to work the hours we're looking for to support ourselves and our families.

We won two week advance scheduling, which helps working parents and caregivers like myself balance my responsibilities outside of work and take care of my family. Plus, existing employees are given priority for shifts before companies can hire outsiders. We banded together and showed them the workers were serious about exercising our rights and we were determined to finally get them to do the right thing – to actually follow the law. With the support of our union, we got the backpay and scheduling rules we deserved! Connecticut workers deserve stability, too. That's why I ask you to please support Bill Number 6859.